



# The Bellcord

No. 1 July 2007  
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**Newsletter of the Friends of Hawthorn Tram Depot Inc.** A00481672

Premises: 8 Wallen Road Hawthorn Postal: PO Box 178 Hawthorn Vic. 3122

## Welcome

The Committee of the Friends of Hawthorn Tram Depot Inc. welcomes all new members to the group and to the first issue of the Newsletter. Your membership commitment to this new organisation is tremendous and a sincere "Thank You" for being involved in the early days of the Friends as it becomes established. This first issue of the Newsletter is important as we near the end of the first year of establishment, which has been a complex task due to a number of problems and time availability of people.

## Communications

Communication with members of the Friends of Hawthorn Tram Depot is important for the future smooth running and development of the organisation. A regular newsletter is seen as the key to this. The newsletter is available in traditional printed form but it is envisaged that, in time, it will also be available electronically for those who wish to receive it this way.

## Newsletter Title

'The Bellcord' is the title of our newsletter – invoking the traditional method of communication on a tram. The Committee plans to have at least four issues a year, with a special issue if necessary.

## Our Logo

Steve Malpass Design has prepared our logo using elements of the Heritage Victoria listed Hawthorn Tram Depot, W7 1040, Melbourne's last "W" class tram and the Hawthorn Tramways Trust logo. Steve prepared two colour versions of the logo which can be used depending on the situation. Both of these are reproduced on the rear page.

## **Annual General Meeting**

The first Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Hawthorn Tram Depot Inc. will be held on 8 September 2007, the regular monthly open day of the Depot. The meeting is proposed to formally commence at 10.00am, with tea/coffee being available from 9.30am. A formal notice of the AGM and the call for nominations for Ordinary Committee Members will be issued in early August.

## **Your Membership Subscription**

The Committee has determined, partly due to the lack of Newsletters that those who have paid their subscription for 2006 – 2007 will receive additional year. That is your subscription will not expire until 30 June 2008.

## **The Committee**

The Committee of the Friends of Hawthorn Tram Depot are:

Mike Ryan – Victrack – FOHTD Treasurer  
Anne Cahir – Heritage Victoria  
Warren Doubleday – COTMA and FOHTD Chairman  
Craig Tooke – COTMA and FOHTD Secretary  
Russell Jones – The Tramway Museum Society of Victoria  
Rod Atkins – Ordinary Committee Member

## **What has happened:**

- Bird proofing of the depot – installed around the entry points for the overhead, but to be extended to the top of the doors – those pigeons did not take long to learn how to get in.
- Two large Compactus units, surplus to Victrack needs installed in one of the offices adjacent to the Training Room, after carpet tile were installed.
- Additional chairs purchased and a screen installed in the main room
- Equipping the depot with equipment to assist the various groups who use the depot for a meeting venue.
- A start made on recommissioning the training tram.
- Discussions with Yarra Trams regarding the permanent connection of a traction power supply to the depot that can be remotely controlled by Yarra Trams Power Control Centre.
- Purchase of tools and equipment for the volunteer workers who look after the trams.
- Purchase of a good quality vacuum cleaner.
- Development of an acquisition policy.
- Drawings ex Preston Workshops stored. A major cataloguing job is yet to be commenced.
- Depot opened on many occasions for interstate and international visitors outside the normal days.

## Relationship with Yarra Trams

Yarra Trams have agreed to assist the depot with display equipment. The Committee is very grateful for a recent donation of a TV and a DVD player. Other discussions are underway and hopefully we can report more in the next Newsletter and at the AGM.

## Open Days

Don't forget every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month is the Depot Open Day. We always welcome Members to come along and help, especially assisting visitors around the depot, explaining to them the tramcars and how they played an important part in Melbourne's transport.

## We need your help

The trams need a spring clean, both inside and outside. The bird problem has delayed this work. The August, September and October open days have been scheduled as "tram cleaning days". We will supply the cleaning equipment to enable this. A clean appearance of the trams for our visitors is very important.

## Web Site

Russell Jones is setting up our web site, soon to be launched. This is an important development as a survey has shown that most of the visitors to the depot find our details by the Department of Infrastructure Web site.

## Tramway Heritage News

Recently exposed to the light for many years was over 100m of cable tram track in Abbotsford St. North Melbourne between Spencer and Queensbury Streets. The City of Melbourne was installing a medium strip with trees when the track was uncovered to the surprise of many. Heritage Victoria has placed an Interim Protection Order over the track. The track was surveyed and the covered over for protection. The proposed installation of trees in the medium strip has not been proceeded with. The following photographs were taken by Warren Doubleday soon after being uncovered.



## The Logos



## Alternative version



## Diary Dates

August Open Day – 11 August - Tram Cleaning Day

September Open Day – 8 September – AGM and Tram Cleaning Depot

October Open Day – 13 October – Depot Cleaning and finish Tram Cleaning

**The Depot is open Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month from 1 pm to 5 pm.**